

When must an accident be reported?

An accident must be reported when it results in:

- injury or death of a person
- \$1,000 or more total damage to property owned by any one person
- damages of \$200 or more to government property (except motor vehicles)

Who reports accidents to the State of Wisconsin?

Generally, law enforcement agencies investigate and file the written reports with the DMV. In those reportable accidents where an enforcement agency does not investigate and/or file a report, the people involved are required to file one. Report forms are available from the division, law enforcement agencies and DMV Service Centers located throughout the state or at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/traffic/accident.htm>.

What does the Department do with information that is reported?

DMV creates an accident entry on the driver record of each driver shown on the accident report. DMV follows up on accident reports to ensure that liable drivers and owners are insured or make alternative arrangements to cover their accident liability. Accident entries remain on the driver record for 4 years from the date of the accident.

DMV enters and stores detailed information from the accident report form into a computerized system. The accident diagram, narrative and the names and addresses of uninjured occupants and witnesses are not stored on the computer.

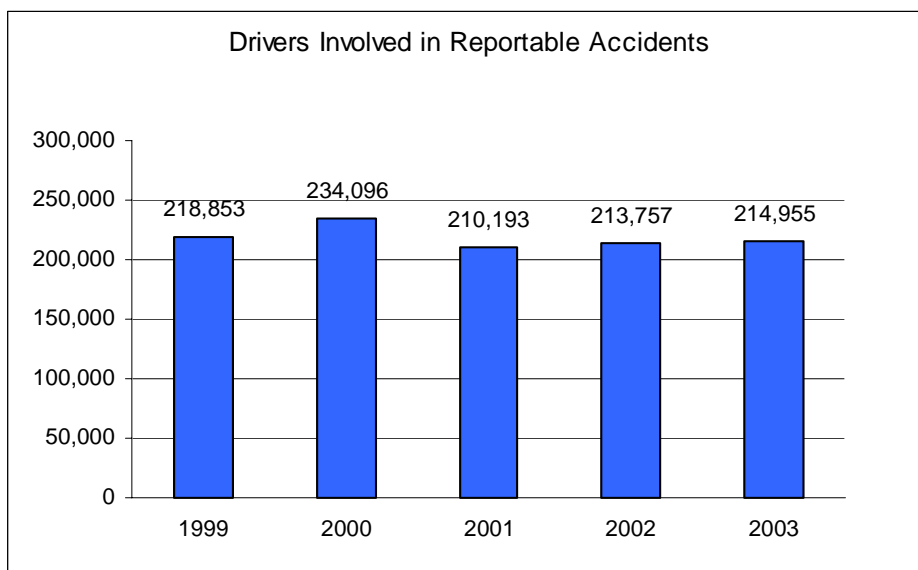
Who uses accident data?

Primary users of accident data are:

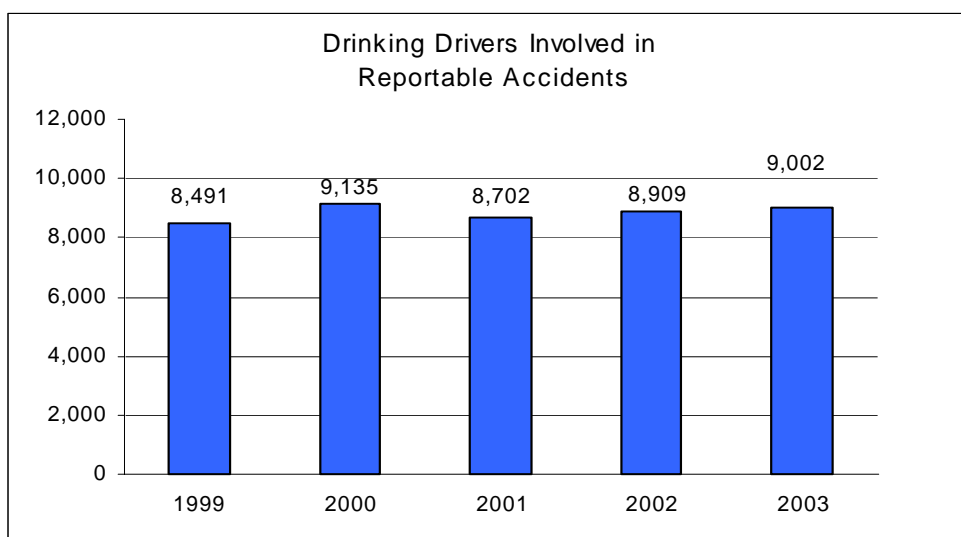
- the Department of Transportation for analysis of highway safety
- the DMV for administration of the Safety Responsibility Law
- law enforcement agencies for selective enforcement
- Traffic Safety Commissions and traffic engineers for safety and elimination of hazards
- driver educators, legislators, insurance companies and other interested parties
- County Highway Safety Commissions to meet their duties under S. 83.013, Wis. Statutes
- Local units of government to target specific accident locations

For more information contact:

Bureau of Driver Services
Traffic Accident Section
(608) 266-8753
Email: traffic-accidents.dmv@dot.state.wi.us



Source: Bureau of Driver Services, Traffic Accident Section



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